

Impassades flow cut off

SABURDA, Turkey (AP) — President Turgut Ozal pushed a button Saturday cutting the flow of the Euphrates River to Syria and Iraq. The message was to tell a Turkish engineer that he should influence conditions in the region. "It is for the benefit of our people," Ozal said as he pushed the button at the end of a sandstone dam a kilometre upstream from the ancient Anatolian Gates. During the one-month drought, Syria and Iraq will get less water from the tributaries of the Euphrates, the 2,100-kilometre river system that has been the lifeline of Mesopotamian history for the past 5,000 years. Construction, communications, irrigation, industry, the power sector and tourism have been damaged. Communities have fled, prices for food have risen and the economy at the door has closed. About 100,000 people have fled the country in the last two months from areas north of Syria's border. White, like sand, pink clouds have appeared from smoke stacks exploded on the opposite side of the river during the drought, as water gushed up the middle of the river's three diversion channels. Once the massive Anatolia project of 15 dams and 18 hydroelectric power plants is completed, Turkey will have a stranglehold on the waters of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers.

Volume 15 Number 4239

AMMAN SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 1990, JUMADA AL THANI 17, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز جريدة سياسية يومية بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحافية الأردنية

Kaddoumi: Time on the Palestinian side

AMMAN (T.T.) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official said Saturday he was on the side of the Palestinians and not otherwise as propagated by Israel.

"Gone is the time when Israel used to gain credit for its bragging that it was an asset to the Western nations' strategy in the Middle East, trying to check the advance of communism in the region and defending oil supply routes and the Suez Canal," said Farouq Al Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Foreign Affairs Department.

"In the light of the current international developments and the ongoing infidels in occupied Palestine, I think that time is on the side of the PLO and working against Israel," Kaddoumi said upon leaving Amman following a four-day visit to Jordan.

"The Israelis have an illusion that they can put down the intifada through their various oppressive means but the Palestinian people's uprising is bound to continue until Israel's occupation ends," Kaddoumi said in reply to reporters' questions at the airport.

The whole world, he said, "recognises the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland, but Israel persists in

its intransigent stand, and both (Israeli Trade Minister Ariel) Sharon and (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir have not yet realised the dimension of developments in the Palestinian and in the international arena."

In reply to a question about Sharon's contention about Jordan was as the substitute homeland for the Palestinians, Kaddoumi said: "Sharon is a terrorist whose statements were condemned by various political circles, including those considered friendly to Israel."

Sharon's statements, he said, "are not more than nonsense which nobody accepts because the whole world recognises the State of Palestine on Palestinian soil."

Asked about Israel's unilateral moves to hold elections in the occupied territories, Kaddoumi said that "one has to remember what happened after the 1976 municipal elections. The result was that Israel assassinated or arrested the elected mayors of the West Bank towns."

His talk in Jordan, he said, were positive, reflecting the mutual understanding and favourable Jordanian response to the PLO's views.

Deputy Prime Minister and

Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, who saw off Kaddoumi described the Jordanian-Palestinian talks as completely frank and characterised with mutual trust. Topics on the agenda covered means of maintaining cooperation and coordination between Jordan and the PLO to ensure further positive gains for the PLO at the regional, pan-Arab and international levels, Qasem said.

The minister reiterated Jordan's total support for the PLO, which, he said, is being fully supported by the Arab nation.

Kaddoumi's visit, Qasem added, was one more stage in the process of Jordanian-PLO coordination. The PLO moves since November 1988 "constitute positive and clear steps designed to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

Qasem said Jordan welcomed a Soviet initiative to mediate between Iran and Iraq, he said that Iraq always supported initiatives designed to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and had been extending a hand of peace to its neighbour.

"Let us hope," he said, "that this initiative will signal the beginning of a positive start of an end to the conflict."

Modrow
faces
strike
threat

11 shot and wounded in occupied lands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded 11 stone-throwing protesters in clashes in the Gaza Strip Saturday, hospital officials said.

Two Palestinians were killed by unknown assailants in the Gaza Strip but it was unclear if they were killed for nationalist or criminal motives.

Hospital officials said a 54-year-old man was stabbed to death in Gaza City Saturday. Residents said he was not known as a collaborator with the Israeli occupation authorities and at least two of his sons were in prison for anti-Israeli activity in the two-year-old Palestinian authority.

The move reversed his defiant defence of the plan a day earlier and met a major demand of East Germany's opposition.

"Through May 6, no offices will be created in this area," Modrow told a session of parliament.

He also set a June 30 deadline for dissolving the old state security agency, which the government said it would abolish last month.

The government announced price hikes for several non-food items in a first move to cut bloated state subsidies and dissuade foreign bargain-hunters.

His remarks, in an interview on West Germany's ZDF television network, elaborated on a broadly-worded offer Thursday to bring reform groups into a government coalition.

But even Friday's announcements appeared to give Modrow only a breathing space.

His government partners and the opposition are demanding proof the old state security agency is being dismantled, and they are critical of a new draft election law.

Heated debate on those issues is likely at next Monday's session of talks between government and opposition, which Modrow is expected to attend in a further effort at conciliation.

If he fails to gain the opposition's confidence, recent politically motivated warning strikes could blossom into a major challenge by workers to the government.

Opposition sources said that a massive strike was being prepared in Gera, Karl-Marx-Stadt and other southern cities, if the stalemate in the negotiations continues.

SDP rejects coalition

The fledgling Social Democratic Party (SDP) ruled out a post-election coalition with Communists and said Saturday it wanted to form the next government with other opposition groups.

"The aim must now be to deprive the Communists of power," SDP spokesman Stephan Hilberg told the party's first congress since it was formed last October.

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"We are not claiming any rights over these organisations," he said. "Our aim is to urge them to take measures to solve the Nagorno-Karabakh question."

Meanwhile Armenian protesters tried to surround villages in the disputed Caucasus mountain enclave and scattered clashes continued Saturday after a week of ethnic violence in southern republics, state-run media said.

At least one security officer has been reported killed and an unknown number of people have

been reported injured.

The Armenians were targeting predominantly Azerbaijani villages in Nagorno-Karabakh, a mostly Christian Armenian enclave inside the predominantly Muslim republic of Azerbaijan, said the Azerbaijani news agency Azerinform.

Azerbaijan's Deputy Director Savili Peretz said he knew of no casualties in the attacks, which followed a reported raid Friday by Azerbaijanis wearing bullet-proof vests and armed with machine guns on the Armenian village of Manashid.

The official news agency TASS said there were casualties in the Friday raids but gave no details.

Nagorno-Karabakh, a predominantly Armenian Christian enclave of some 160,000 people, has been under Azerbaijani control since 1923. Attempts to annex the enclave sparked unrest that left more than 200 dead in the past two years. The enclave is now more than 900 people.

The hostilities reflect a worsening political crisis triggered by Aoun's defiance of Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi's government, formed in November to try to end the war in which an estimated 150,000 people have been killed since 1975.

(Continued on page 3)

1 killed in Tripoli bombings

BEIRUT (AP) — Three bombs exploded in the northern port of Tripoli Saturday during the morning rush hour, killing one person and wounding 10, soon after an explosive charge went off near the Saudi Arabian embassy in Beirut.

Scattered clashes were reported between rival forces in Beirut and South Lebanon, but no casualties were reported.

Police said panic swept Tripoli's central business section when the bombs detonated at a few minutes apart between 9 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. (0700 and 0715 GMT).

Police reported frightened motorists caused major traffic snarls as they tried to flee the area Lebanon's second largest city, 80 kilometres north of Beirut.

The bombs, each containing an estimated three kilograms of TNT, were planted on sidewalks, police reported.

None of the feuding factions in Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war claimed responsibility for the bombings.

But a police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing regulations, said the attacks appeared to be aimed at undermining the Syrian military presence in Tripoli.

It has been policed by the Syrian army since 1983, when Syrian-backed dissident Palestinians forced Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) out of their last stronghold in Lebanon following Israel's 1982 invasion.

"All three explosions occurred 10 to 15 metres from a Syrian army checkpoint," the spokesman said.

There were similar bombing campaigns in west Beirut after Syrian troops deployed in February 1987 to end three years of anarchy by feuding militias.

Saturday's explosions shattered windows within a three-kilometre radius, leaving streets carpeted with glass shards, and damaged 14 cars, police reported.

They said the fatality from the first blast was a 65-year-old electrical tools salesman. The other casualties were passers-by.

Tripoli's 850,000 inhabitants are mainly Sunni Muslims. The city's coordination committee, which runs day-to-day administrative affairs, blamed the bombings on the forces of rebel Christian leader Michel Aoun, who seeks to force the Syrian army out of Lebanon.

"This is the way the outlaw general sees fit to carry on his so-called war of liberation," the committee declared in a statement.

The two-kilogramme bomb in Beirut exploded late Friday night under a car parked 80 metres from the abandoned Saudi Arabian embassy in the residential Manara neighbourhood of west Beirut.

The explosions set several other cars on fire, but no casualties were reported.

The embassy was closed in 1985 after it was ransacked and burned by militants.

They were protesting Saudi curbs on the number of Iranians allowed to make the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

Aoun's mainly Christian army units and Syrian-backed militias clashed with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades before dawn across Beirut's dividing green line.

Police reported no casualties in the one-hour fire fight. But it underlined a marked increase in tension in the divided capital.

At least four people have been killed and 12 wounded in gunbattles along the demarcation line in the last week.

The violence has undermined an Arab League-brokered civil war cease-fire that took effect last September, ending six months of fierce artillery battles between Aoun's troops and the Syrians in which more than 900 people

have been killed.

The hostilities reflect a worsening political crisis triggered by Aoun's defiance of Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi's government, formed in November to try to end the war in which an estimated 150,000 people have been killed since 1975.

(Continued on page 3)

No tough measures needed to stop influx of Palestinians, deputies say

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Reports of a "worrying exodus" of Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to Jordan may be a reason for deep analysis and reassessment, and shed light on the true magnitude of the problem, but it does not yet require "tough measures to stop the exodus."

Although a reported 45,594 Palestinians have left the Israeli-occupied territories since mid-1983, only a percentage of these have lost their right of return," said Mohammad Edwan, head of the Ministry of Interior's control and inspection department.

The cause for worry over this figure is that the larger number of these Palestinians left since the beginning of the uprising in the occupied West Bank in December 1987, indicating a definite connection between the deteriorating living conditions in the occupied territories as a result of the 26-month-old anti-occupation revolt and the flight of larger numbers of Palestinians from the territories.

According to Edwan, almost 24,000 Palestinians left the territories in 1989 and the 1988 figure

shows an increase of 10,000 over the 1987 figure.

In answer to a Jordan Times question on the accuracy of these figures during a Lower House of Parliament session Saturday, Interior Minister Salem Mass'adeh could not confirm the figures given by Edwan but said: "If these figures are correct then this is a very sorrowful situation."

"I am sorry that such a high number of Palestinians would succumb to Israeli pressure... we hope that Palestinians would remain steadfast in their homeland," Mass'adeh said.

The minister added that the "plight of the Palestinians is also our plight... it is a human problem."

The Interior Ministry's department of control and inspection has been a target of strong public and parliamentary criticism since its creation immediately after Jordan's July 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank.

Deputies have been insisting on abolishing the department and minimising routine bureaucracy in crossing the bridges connecting Jordan with the occupied territories.

According to Massi, and several other deputies interviewed by the Jordan Times, calls for facilitating the routines at these bridges are "humanitarian calls."

"These people stand in lines for hours and are routinely kept waiting and harassed by customs officials," said Massi. "We are not calling for their migration to Jordan or opening the doors for a new population to come into the Kingdom," he said.

Edwan expressed his belief that this "transfer of the population is tragic," but according to parliamentarians interviewed by the Jordan Times "the tragedy lies in our (Arab) responsibility in this situation."

Iraq to match Iranian prisoner release

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq will free 50 disabled Iranian prisoners of war (POWs) to match a similar release by Tehran, the first POW exchange in more than a year, Red Cross officials said Saturday.

The move came amid support by both sides for a Soviet proposal to mediate peace talks that have been deadlocked virtually since they started Aug. 25, 1988, five days after a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire halted the eight-year Gulf war.

But U.N. officials who have sought in vain to revive the negotiations said deep differences still remain over implementation of the U.N. Security Council's ceasefire resolution.

The disputes have left an estimated 100,000 captives held by both sides languishing in POW camps. Some of them have been held since the early stages of the war that broke out in September 1980.

The International Committee of the Red Cross officials said the Iranians would be freed after the 50 Iraqis were released and flown to Baghdad.

Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, Kamal Khrazi, announced in New York earlier this week that Tehran would release the ailing Iraqi captives and said he hoped Iraq would reciprocate.

One of the Red Cross officials said the Iraqi authorities have "promised to reciprocate with the release of an equal number."

The move was set for Wednesday, the officials said. The ICRC supervises prisoner exchanges between the two Gulf countries.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a Swiss airliner has been chartered to fly the Iraqis to Baghdad.

U.N. officials have registered 55,000 POWs held by Iran and 19,500 by Iraq. But they believe the total held by both sides is about 100,000.

The 1948 Geneva Convention stipulates that all prisoners of war should be released when hostilities cease. But the captives held by the two sides have become pawns in the political manoeuvring by Iraq and Iran.

In 1988, the two sides exchanged about 400 disabled and ailing prisoners. But the operation collapsed in November of that year amid charges by both sides of falsifying the number of captives seeking asylum.

Earlier this month Iraqi President Saddam Hussein offered to restart the peace talks, adding that Iraq was ready to exchange all disabled and sick prisoners.

Romania postpones elections after outlawing Communists

BUCHAREST (Agencies) — A top official of the National Peasants' Party said Saturday that Romanian President Ion Iliescu had agreed the first free elections in 43 years should be delayed to give opposition parties more time to organise.

"The front is with us," demonstrators in the crowd of 5,000 people yelled, referring to the NSF. Iliescu's announcement was broadcast live on state radio and television.

The announcement came hours after the crowd had shouted Iliescu and other leaders who tried to speak. Demonstrators yelled "Down with communism" and "kill the Communists." They burned a Romanian Communist flag and Communist identification papers.

Friday was a national day of mourning, with religious ceremonies held across the country in memory of the victims of the revolution.

"We would like elections to be held between July and September to give us time to organise properly," he added.

The NSF, which took power after Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown in a popular revolution last month, had pledged to hold elections in April.

Romanian Communist Party is outlawed, considering that it is against the national spirit and our ancestors' law," he said.

Bulgarian talks reach accord on ethnic issue

SOFIA (R) — Bulgarian nationalists, Muslims and government and opposition representatives have reached an agreement aimed at defusing ethnic tension.

An 11-point document, produced after five days of talks, set out a list of proposals including the right of all Bulgarians to choose their own names and practise any religion.

"Nobody has the right to force any one to change his name, but if anyone elects to alter it of his own free will they should be guaranteed the right to do so," the document said.

It added that a special law on the right to choose names should be passed by the end of next month.

Vasil Mrachkov, vice president of the state council, told a news conference after the talks that the draft document would be finalised and submitted to parliament.

The five-day talks were hastily arranged last Sunday after tens of thousands of Bulgarians demonstrated against the Communist authorities' decision to reverse an assimilation campaign against the country's 1.5 million ethnic Turks and other Muslims.

The campaign, which prompted an exodus of more than 300,000 ethnic Turks from Bulgaria to Turkey last summer, forced ethnic Turks and other Muslims to adopt Bulgarian names and curbed their religious practices.

Opposition activists who attended the talks said the document was intended to clarify certain parts of the constitution concerning citizens' ethnic rights and allow fears in some Bulgarian

provinces that the large ethnic Turkish population would seek autonomy.

"We hope that this declaration will pacify people's emotions," said Zhelyu Zelev, leader of the Union of Democratic Forces, an umbrella body including the country's 11 main opposition groups.

"There are certain guarantees in the declaration for the regions where the people fear most insecurity and threatened."

Mincho Minchev, spokesman of the Union for the Protection of National Interests which had protested against the reversal of the assimilation campaign, told Western journalists he accepted the agreement unconditionally.

He said he believed a wave of anti-Turkish strikes and demonstrations that took place last week would end.

In an apparent attempt to reassure Bulgarians that their rights were not threatened by concessions to ethnic minorities, the document stressed that the country's sovereignty should be safeguarded, and no citizen should have the right to hoist a foreign flag.

It added that Bulgarian would remain the official language in educational institutions and public associations as well as for official documents.

"In other places of everyday communication and personal relations people can use whatever language they like," the document said.

The document also went some way towards placating nationalists who had demanded a referendum or a moratorium on the

ethnic issue by proposing that a parliamentary commission, headed by Bulgarian leader Petar Mladenov, should be formed to examine the question.

"This parliamentary commission should work out a complete programme so that lasting national policy can be carried out for a change in the constitution and present legislation," it said.

The programme should be drawn up "with broad discussion by the people."

Union of Democratic Forces spokesman Petar Beron said that while ethnic Turks were already free to use their original names in private, changing them officially would take longer.

"Until new identity cards and other documents are issued they cannot be used in legal matters," he told the news conference.

Although the various groups attending the talks in Sofia reached agreement on the document, some Bulgarians said they feared the consensus would not filter through to the provinces where the ethnic tension is at its highest.

"In practical terms this is neither a step forward nor a step back — it's a step to the side," one Bulgarian commented after the talks.

"If the nationalists are dissatisfied with the decision I am 90 per cent sure there will be more protests," said Vesselin Vulchev, a Bulgarian from the south eastern town of Kurtzhali who said he had been ostracised at home for his support of ethnic Turks.

"I'm not saying the situation is dangerous, but it's unpleasant," he said.

Few government officials survive criticism by Somali party paper

MOGADISHU (R) — Somalis are queuing up to ogre headlines in Ogala, the tough-talking tabloid of the country's ruling party, and read all about its latest swipes at the government.

The six-page weekly paper of the Somali Socialist Revolutionary Party has spent months lambasting top government officials for their shortcomings — and few of those named have survived its criticism.

People who normally show little interest in the country's tightly controlled press are suddenly becoming newspaper addicts. Every Friday morning they jostle to snap up the latest edition of Ogala. Latecomers offer huge sums for photocopies.

Last year Ogala blamed the central bank governor for a cash shortage and the disappearance

from circulation of new 500 shilling notes. He was fired after a few hard-hitting editorials.

The chief of police was the next to go. Ogala then turned its guns on the cabinet — denouncing two ministers each week for alleged corruption and inefficiency.

Just as readers were beginning to wonder who there was left to attack apart from President Mohammad Siad Barre himself, Ogala declared in an editorial last Friday that the entire government should resign "because it had failed to tackle the country's social and economic problems."

Siad Barre announced four days later that he had dissolved the government and would shortly form a new administration.

The president, who has ruled Somalia with an iron hand for the past 20 years, is widely assumed

to be the author of Ogala's stinging attacks on members of the government.

Official sources said Commerce Minister Abdikassim Salad Hassan told a cabinet meeting he was prepared to expose the true author of Ogala's tirades.

He then grinned broadly at the president.

Somalia's shortcomings are real enough.

The poverty-stricken country of nomadic herdsmen is torn by civil war and the government is riddled with corruption.

Most Western aid donors have responded to Somalia in protest at human rights violations by the government's security forces and the regular diversion of development funds into the pockets of senior officials.

Egyptian dig finds dwarf

Giza, Egypt (R) — Experts have uncovered the bones and statue of a dwarf named Pt-N-Ankh who was the companion of Egypt's pharaoh 4,000 years ago.

The basalt figure, brought out of a sealed vault on Thursday, is about 40 centimetres high and shows him seated on a chair, his left arm across his chest.

He holds a long stick resembling an oar. His other hand, resting on his lap, holds an instrument resembling a spatula, indicating he was a high official.

Zahi Hawass, director-general of the Giza Pyramids area outside Cairo, the man who directed the dig, calls the statue "wonderful, unique."

Only one previous statue of a dwarf has been found in Giza, a scribe named Seneb, discovered in the early 1900s. The tombs were near each

other and Hawass says the diggers may now have located a burial ground of dwarfs in Giza.

Little is known about dwarfs in ancient Egypt. Hawass said some were jesters who entertained royalty. Others held official posts like Seneb the Scribe.

Hieroglyphic inscriptions said Pt-N-Ankh was "a close associate of the king in the great palace."

Pt-N-Ankh's statue was found by Mahmoud Afifi, an antiquities inspector.

Afifi told Reuters he stumbled on a six-metre tomb four months ago while removing sand from nearby burial chambers and uncovered two statues of women, now believed to be Pt-N-Ankh's wives.

Thigh bones of a dwarf were found in one of the tomb's three shafts but Pt-N-Ankh's nearby sarcophagus or vault, with its fac-

inating stone figure and the inscriptions on its walls, was uncovered only last week.

"I looked through a spy hole in the sarcophagus and saw the statue of the dwarf," Afifi said.

Archaeologists said they did not know why the dwarf official was holding an oar or what it meant, or why his sarcophagus was outside his tomb, not inside as was customary in the age.

"It is the first time we find a sarcophagus in the old kingdom outside the tomb. Sarcophagi were always found inside tombs of employees," Hawass said.

"The only sarcophagi we have found outside the tombs were those of royalty. This discovery is unique."

Hawass and Afifi also found clay and alabaster urns and plates, five unusual-looking sacrificial columns and pieces of wood, probably part of a small chair or bed for the dwarf.

It gave no details of what measures would be taken to face the water cut

over Badr's sharp tongue and iron-fisted security operations which at one time last year led to the detention of 6,000 alleged Muslim fundamentalists.

"I wouldn't have expected it to happen that quickly," said Mohammed Sid Ahmad, a left-leaning political analyst.

The government seat Deputy Foreign Minister Nizar Hamdoun to Ankara last month to ask Turkey to reduce the cut-off to two weeks instead of the 30 days announced by Ankara.

But the Turks have not responded and gone ahead with plans to block the river to fill the newly built Ataturk reservoir so they can start up the dam's huge generators.

President Saddam met Wednesday with the leadership of the ruling Baath Socialist Party and the Revolutionary Command Council to discuss the issue and take "the necessary political and technical precautions" to handle the situation, Baghdad's official media reported.

"I feel as if I have been relieved of a nightmare," said columnist Ahmad Behaeddin who writes for the daily state-run Al Abram.

"This is a relief not just for me, but for everyone. We will gain a very large popularity with this move."

The move is seen by many as being just about in time.

Yet Mubarak's dismissal of Badr was unexpected. He has previously ignored blasts from the opposition and from journalists.

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Baghdad to send envoy to Ankara on water cut-off



AN ISRAELI army jeep (foreground) clears a roadblock as Israeli soldiers stand in the background after troops had killed two Palestinians in the occupied West Bank last week. The roadblock was erected to make access to the village difficult. A U.N. vehicle (back right) waits to pass.

Maghreb ministers study integration

TUNIS (R) — The foreign ministers of five Maghreb countries began talks on closer regional integration and joint negotiations with the European Community (EC) Friday in advance of an Arab Maghreb Union summit later in the month.

The union, set up last February by Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, hopes to transform itself into a regional common market.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdul Hamid Esbehli told the ministers in an opening session that the union had made a promising start by putting in place most of the common institutions.

"A new stage on the road to unionist action will start today in Tunis... it is our task to find the best means to strengthen our regional grouping," he added.

Tunisian official said two of the most important proposals prepared by junior ministers earlier this week were to create a permanent secretariat for the union and to talk as a group with the European Community on matters such as trade and emigration.

The union now has only a small secretariat which follows the rotating chairmanship. Morocco has held the chair since February

and is the process of handing over to Tunisia.

The five countries are likely to contest the siting of the permanent secretariat fiercely. Algeria and Morocco are at a disadvantage because of the dispute over the Western Sahara, where Moroccan troops are fighting Polisario guerrillas traditionally supported by Algeria.

The five heads of state have agreed to meet in Tunis from Jan. 21 to 23 to look at their foreign ministers' proposals.

But Tunisia had to postpone the summit twice because first King Hassan of Morocco and then Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi said they could not make dates previously announced.

The timetabling difficulties

underlined the union's vulnerability to the whims of its leaders, diplomats said.

Gulf officials say the tripartite committee — formed by leaders of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) at their annual summit Muscat last December — will try to formulate policies to cope with new trends worldwide.

The changes include the unified European market in 1992, superpower detente, and political upheavals in Eastern Europe.

The GCC, a political and economic alliance, comprises Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Kuwait, the only GCC country with a parliamentary tradition, is in the throes of heated debate on the advantages and disadvantages of reviving its dissolved parliament following a series of vocal pro-democracy demonstrations.

The Kuwaiti government has ruled out a reinstatement of parliament, dissolved in 1968, but has said it may soon lift censorship imposed on the country's media more than three years ago and was considering new ways of

popular participation in government and legislation.

Gulf newspapers in the past few weeks have repeatedly urged Arab governments to respond to democratic changes in Eastern Europe.

"The virus of democracy will spread in the Arab World, and it will enter cities and villages either peacefully or through uprising, the Sharjah-based 'Al Khaleej' said Thursday.

"Will we (Arabs) forever remain a nation with its sons and daughters prevented from practising their freedom of speech, thought, work and self-determination?" the paper asked.

Officials within the GCC countries say political changes will come but slowly and will be guided by their governments.

"No-one wants to see a repeat of what happened in Kuwait, with thousands of people fleeing changes will occur but in the next 15-20 years," one official said recently.

Bahrain's daily 'Al Ayam' Saturday quoted Abdulla Al Qaifi, assistant secretary general of the GCC for financial affairs, as saying the ministers "will study a working plan towards these developments."

Badr firing draws mixed reaction

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak's decision Friday to fire a highly unpopular interior minister drew varied reactions from Egyptians, some of whom said the former official should go on trial "like (former Romanian leader Nicolae) Ceausescu."

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were reflective of the official view, or his personal opinion.

Badr's dismissal and replacement by another career policeman was announced by presidential decree Friday, taking many political analysts by surprise.

"Clipping Zaki Badr's wings is a public relations triumph for Mubarak," said one diplomat. "He will take the credit from an intelligence that detected Badr's methods and manners."

During his eight-year rule, 61-year-old Mubarak has tried to maintain social equilibrium by balancing opposing power groups, cutting them down to size when they threatened to dominate.

Last April he sacked Mohammad Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala, the defence minister and second most powerful man in Egypt.

The move was seen then by some analysts as keeping the military establishment in check.

Badr singled out Islamic fundamentalists for particular abuse, calling them pigs and dogs.

For many — and possibly Mubarak himself — the final

straw came last Tuesday when an opposition newspaper listed in detail the obscene insults Badr is alleged to have used in publicly attacking writers, scholars and politicians.

Badr's successor is very different in character.

Mohammad Abdul Halim Musa, 59, is known for his courteous, measured approach and a willingness to consider dialogue with the opposition. But he is also a firm upholder of the law.

"The opposition parties are part of the system... we must listen to other opinions," he said in remarks to reporters as he arrived at the Interior Ministry to take up his appointment.

In contrast, Badr made no distinction between the officially banned but tolerated Muslim Brotherhood and the outlawed Muslim militants who preach revolution.

"It didn't matter when he harassed impoverished provincials working underground in the tense areas of Egyptian cities and towns," said a Western diplomat.

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Ministry of Information studies plans to revamp role, structure

By Ghader Taha
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — In line with the changes in the political climate in Jordan, the Ministry of Information, once the main guiding light for information dissemination in the Kingdom, is considering plans to rework itself and modify its role, according to Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin.

"So far this is a very internal study but we are debating ways to change the nature of the ministry but it is not going to be abolished as some reports suggested," Izzeddin told the Jordan Times Saturday.

Some of the ideas which are under consideration include ways to give the government-controlled Jordan television and radio more autonomy and make the official news agency, Petra, more independent, according to the minister.

"Television is already autonomous but we are thinking of changing it from a government to a national station," he said. But he could not give details on exactly how that would translate in practical terms since the study "is very much in its preliminary stages."

According to a report carried by Radio Monte Carlo, the ministry is considering a plan to separate itself from radio and television, which will be directly administered and operated by a board of directors. The radio said the proposed changes were expected to be brought into effect with

what it described as "an expected reshuffle" of the government.

The minister expressed hope that Petra, the only source of official information until now, would become "similar to an international news agency," which would report on events as it sees fit, in order to transform Petra into "a more professional organization."

The ministry intends to consult the three local dailies for advice and proposals, Izzeddin said.

The minister confirmed that suggestions had been made that Petra be turned into a shareholding company but said: "This is very premature at this point." He declined from giving a specific time-frame for the expected changes.

Petra usually reports government decisions, official meetings and issues handled on government level in terse statements without elaboration or explanation. On many instances, its coverage of official events are more of a ceremonial nature than information.

The agency has not been known to cover sensitive issues such as the economic crisis, political scandals or other controversial topics. But first indications that the agency might be changing its philosophy came during the three-day Lower House of Parliament session on the government programme last month when it carried full term of Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, which took power in April this year and

opened also seemed to have invaded Jordan Television, when it screened parts of documents which took the government to task over economic and political issues.

The ministry itself is planning to redefine its function, Izzeddin said Saturday. "The ministry has gone through dramatic changes in the last few months in line with the liberalisation process in the country," he said. "Now the press is free; we no longer issue guidelines."

The ministry will continue to give regular briefing to journalists but "they can use it or not use it as they deem fit," Izzeddin said. The same applies for reports carried by Petra, and "we do not insist that the papers carry our reports," he said.

During the past era of restrictive journalism which started with the government assuming control of the three major newspaper establishments in the Kingdom, any information emanating from the Ministry of Information was expected to be treated as, in the words of an official, "gospel" and be carried with no elaboration or explanation of the issue involved.

Local editors recall dozens of occasions when they were told to use "only the Petra version" of the story. However, the system took a distinct turn after the interim government of Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, which took power in April this year and

Ibrahim Izzeddin

maintained a more-or-less laissez-faire approach to the newspapers.

The ministry used to hold regular meetings to instruct the local press about what was permissible for publication and what was not and had watchdogs at all the three papers until early last month when the Badran government reversed the August 1988 decision and returned the control of the newspapers to its former managers. However, the government still retains controlling interest in the papers.

Izzeddin said that there was no longer any censorship of the press by the Ministry of Information and newspapers can "print what they want." But, foreign publications entering Jordan will be scrutinised, he said.

Conceding that ministries of information usually exist in countries which find a need to "control" information, the minister said: "Yes, it is true that they exist in developing countries and not in developed ones. In our case it is a title but the role has changed."

clothes, artificial flowers and other home appliances prepared by the relatives of the handicapped children and volunteers.

According to the organisers,

the Queen, who attended the opening event toured a bazaar section displaying embroideries, the Jasfar Corporation for Special Education. Handicapped children presented national songs and dances at the event.

The Queen, who attended the opening event toured a bazaar section displaying embroideries,

able projects. The corporation's director, Raseb Al Wazani, delivered a brief speech expressing appreciation of the Queen's support for charity work and presenting her with the corporation's shield.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

FARMERS PRESENT DRAFT LAW: The Jordan Farmers Association (JFA) has presented to the Ministry of Agriculture a new draft law for the JFA for onward presentation to the Supreme Agricultural Council when it convenes, according to the Arabic-language Al Dastour paper reported. The draft law provides for establishing ten agricultural unions that would come under the umbrella of an association located in Amman, JFA President Tala Ghezawi said. He added that the JFA presented to Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabyat a memorandum including farmers' problems and proposal to solve them (J.T.).

JORDAN-SYRIA TRADE: Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Amudi has discussed with Jordanian Ambassador to Syria Nayed Hadid economic cooperation and means to develop trade between the two countries. During a meeting they held in Damascus Saturday, they discussed preparations for the meeting of the joint Jordanian-Syrian follow-up committee which will convene early next week to pave the way for the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee meetings.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS: Municipal election for Jdaydeh township in Karak Governorate will be held March 29. A voter registration committee Saturday began preparing lists of voters (Petra).

APPEAL TO MERCHANTS: The Amman Chamber of Trade Saturday appealed to Amman merchants to cooperate with the Greater Amman Municipality to keep the capital clean and tidy to visitors and tourists. The appeal followed a meeting between Greater Amman Mayor Ali Subhiat and the chamber of trade board of directors (Petra).

CIVIL DEFENCE COURSE: A total of 25 women from the Princess Bassma Centre for Social Services in Zarqa Governorate Saturday concluded a course in civil defence. The week-long course introduced the participants to matters related to first aid, rescue operations, and firefighting as well as the role of the Civil Defence Department in preserving public safety (Petra).

RADIO, TV COURSE: A total of 26 new employees at the radio and television stations Saturday enrolled in a training course. The two-week course includes theoretical and practical training as well as field visits to radio and television studios to get introduced to the nature of work (Petra).

AOAD MEETING: Jordan will participate in the meetings of the Council of Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD), which will convene in Tripoli, Libya, Tuesday on ministerial level. The three-day meeting will review the AOAD achievements in 1989, the 1990-1991 budget as well as future plans that serve objectives of agricultural development strategy in the Arab countries. The delegation will be led by Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabyat and include Director of Agricultural Economics and Planning Saad Zuhair (Petra).

EDUCATION GUIDELINES: Her Royal Highness Princess Bassma, chairperson of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) board of trustees, has recommended publishing a study prepared by Samar Odeh Karash to provide guidelines to those in charge of educating children, specialists, and those interested in this field. The study, entitled "Employing Drama in Education," is designed to familiarise children with collective work, promote their mental capabilities, and develop their abilities to face problems (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

* An exhibition entitled "They chose 38 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

* A lecture by Professor Nabil Khairy on "the Nabatae civilisation and the 1981 Petra excavations" at the British Council — 6:30 p.m.

FILM

* A Soviet film entitled "Paratroopers" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

Heated debate over disengagement delays decision on ministry abolition

AMMAN (J.T.) — A decision by the Lower House of Parliament's Legal Committee to approve a 1988 law which abolished the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs is parliamentary with a hereditary monarchy.

Mujalli said: "Since the people on both banks have never been separated and since Parliament decided in 1950 to reaffirm the historic fact, then there can be no power which can abrogate such a decision."

The prime minister was asked to comment on an incident in which a man was killed near the Jordanian-Syrian border and said that the man, Walid Hassan Samrin, was killed during an attempt to infiltrate into Jordanian territory through illegitimate means.

The man was shot by Jordanian patrols when he failed to respond to a call to stop, the prime minister said.

He made it clear that this might happen again in any attempt to infiltrate into Jordanian territory through illegitimate means.

The House endorsed a law

canceling the Amman Develop-

ment Corporation.

Other proposals included the opening of a government hospital at Ruseifa, providing homes for teachers in remote areas like Maan and Aqaba and paying government employees salaries on weekly basis.

The House Financial Committee adopted a series of measures designed to encourage public involvement in the process of introducing amendments to laws of financial nature.

At the end of the session, the committee issued a statement appealing to intellectuals, scholars and university professors concerned with financial issues to come forward with ideas and proposals on ways to handle issues on the committee's agenda.

The statement said that the committee would soon issue a public statement summing up its deliberations on the proposed amendments to the Income Tax Law.

ACC begins talks on policy coordination

BAGHDAD (AP) — Senior officials from Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen began talks Saturday on coordinating their countries' foreign policies.

Helmi Nammer, secretary-general of the Arab Cooperation Council, said the officials will discuss foreign policy issues ahead of the meeting of heads of government set for Tuesday.

Issues will top the agenda are regional developments including the situation in Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq peace, Nammer said.

The diplomats will lay down recommendations for their foreign ministers to endorse

before proposing them to the meeting of the heads of government.

The ACC was formed in February last year and its leaders said it has no political ambitions beyond seeking to unify the four countries' standpoints on various issues.

Nammer said the government leaders will review the work of several committees and that accords have been drafted on how to achieve economic integration between the four countries.

The Egyptian economics professor said the group is still moving carefully on integration and needs more time and

that would have laid the groundwork for the four countries to abolish customs duties.

Instead, they agreed to give their partners limited preferential treatment in imports of certain goods.

Arab diplomats said Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen will express support for President Saddam Hussein's latest peace move aimed at breaking the deadlock in the peace talks with Iran.

Egypt, a staunch supporter of Iraq during the war, has restored its diplomatic ties with Syria which supported Iran. Iraq has not commented on the Egyptian move.

Million children return to school

AMMAN (J.T.) — More than one million children returned to school Saturday at the start of the second term of the 1989-1990 school year following a three-week winter recess.

A statement by the Ministry of Education said that a total of 1,028,164 male and female students at all levels had resumed studies at government and private schools as well as schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

The schools will have a two-

week spring holiday in April before the third term which ends by mid-June.

The statement said that the students receive education at the hand of 48,366 teachers, of whom 1928 are nursery teachers at various towns in the country.

The minister of education said here last November that the ministry this year embarked on a JD 100 million plan for the development of the Kingdom's education sector. The plan, he

according to ministry officials, will take up to 10 years to implement resolutions and recommendations passed by the 1987 first national education conference, designed to overhaul the whole education process.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education announced Saturday that it had received a number of school buildings constructed in the past year with the Maan Governorate.

The ministry said that several schools complete with their facilities, utilities, laboratories and workshops built at a total cost of more than JD 700,000 were completed.

It said work was still underway on JD 900,000 worth of school buildings which would be completed during 1990 within Maan Governorate.

The ministry said that several schools complete with their facilities, utilities, laboratories and workshops built at a total cost of more than JD 700,000 were completed.

Armenians began renewing a rail blockade of Armenia last week in a campaign to retain control of the enclave. Fuel and food are running dangerously low in Armenia, which receives most of its supplies through Azerbaijan.

"The people are furious because the central authorities are not paying adequate attention to events," said Eduard Shakh-Nazaryan, an editor at the western Transylvanian town of Timisara, where protests in mid-December sparked the uprising, young protesters also gathered outside local NSF headquarters Friday to protest at the credentials of some front members.

Local NSF leader Lorin Fortuna resigned just before the demonstration and the army commander agreed to run the area until new elections were held for the front committee within a week, the official Rompresa news

Romania elections

(Continued from page 1)

A leading Bucharest newspaper, Romania Libera, called Saturday for the sacking of Vice-President Dumitru Maziu for his past associations with Ceausescu.

The dictator fired Maziu as ambassador to the United Nations early last year after preventing him from presenting a human rights report critical of Romania to the world body.

But the newspaper questioned his credentials as an anti-Ceausescu dissident, saying he had been a colonel in the hated secret police. It also accused him of whipping up demonstrators with anti-Communist chants at the Friday protest outside NSF headquarters.

Another leading front member and dissident who has also come under public criticism, Silvin Bratu, wrote in the newspaper Advarul Saturday that Romania needed democracy to enter the technological era.

"This will lead to unpredictable consequences if it continues," he said in a telephone interview from Yerevan. "I mean, military conflict between us if they continue like this."

TASS reported Friday that an Interior Ministry officer on assignment to help maintain order in the region, was shot to death apparently by an Azerbaijani policeman in the Azerbaijani-populated village of Akhulju. TASS gave no other details.

East Germany's SDP is closely linked to West Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD) and several of its most prominent members were expected to address the congress.

"We highly appreciate the support of the SPD in the structuring of our party and in the election campaign," said Hilsberg.

He said that the Kingdom's agreement, signed with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), would try to maximise its benefit from the agreement and available funds to carry out the training courses in the Kingdom.

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Others, including the Centrist Democratic Awakening Party, have also called for an election alliance of all opposition forces but some conservative groups

down sections of the border fence with Iran, pose an additional problem for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

While the independence movement in the Caucasus is far less advanced than in the Baltic region, a strong nationalist tide in the south has frequently been marked by violence and Moscow has appeared incapable of maintaining order.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Saturday his country would welcome Soviet Muslims who wish to visit Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Velayati arrived in Tabriz, capital of Iran's east Azerbaijan province, to finalise details to facilitate travel for the Soviet Muslims.

The province borders Azerbaijan, once part of Iran.

Shiite Muslims in the Soviet region have been waging a protest campaign for two weeks, demanding close links with their ethnic co-religionists in northwest Iran amid the wave of reform that has been sweeping Eastern Europe.

The report did not say when the first batch of Soviet visitors was expected in Iran. But Tehran Radio, also monitored in Nicosia, said that Velayati's trip was undertaken "in light of recent developments in Soviet Azerbaijan, and following protests by Muslims there demanding easier travel between the two neighbouring countries."

The latest upsurge in Azerbaijan, which started a week ago when nationalists began tearing

The Star

Next Thursday and every Thursday read

Jordan's political, economic & cultural weekly newsmagazine

P O Box 9313, Amman, Jordan. Tel: 648298

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

How to stop the exodus

THE growing anxiety over the news that more and more Palestinians are leaving the West Bank and Gaza Strip and while less and less are returning is a legitimate concern that needs to be addressed before the problem develops into a crisis. There is no true Arab nationalist who would want to see the beginning of a Palestinian exodus from the occupied territories to the neighbouring Arab countries or, worse still, to foreign countries. Yet the solution of such an alarming situation does not lie in locking the doors and windows on the Palestinian people as some commentators have innocently suggested. Rather, the panacea can only be found in positive and affirmative Arab action. The Arabs should translate their verbal support to the Palestinian intifada and their distant clapping and remote control glorification of the uprising into deeds.

There is no doubt that the intifada is causing hardships to the Palestinian people, and unless some of these difficulties — especially their material dimension — are addressed and rectified by a genuine Arab rescue plan, there will always be fear that some of the Palestinian people most severely affected would opt to leave their homeland. Of course the Palestinian people should be exhorted to remain steadfast in their country and continue to wage their glorious intifada, but words of encouragement need to be buttressed by actions that the affected people can feel and count on. Once this aspect of the issue is properly addressed and rectified, one may start addressing the other outstanding issues that have a bearing on the whole issue.

There must not be any fear to debate every matter in order to stop any Palestinian exodus no matter how minuscule it is at this stage. The PLO should be drawn into this deliberation which could include discussing the various aspects of the intifada with a view to weed out some of them if such a course would put an end to the ominous exodus from the occupied territories. Maintaining a robust economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip through massive Arab aid would lend support to the noble objective of keeping the people firm and strong where they belong and should belong. And since the intifada is developing into a drawn-out struggle that is testing the will and determination of each side, the tactics of the intifada need to be periodically reexamined while maintaining and honouring its strategy. But whatever the decision and verdict on how to stop the haemorrhage from the occupied territories are, they must not ever be by way of locking up the Palestinian people by bureaucratic or forceful means. There must be more ingenious ways available.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Saturday welcomed the Soviet Union's mediation bid between Iran and Iraq to reach a comprehensive settlement to the Gulf conflict. The paper said that Moscow's mediation bid assumes a great importance especially as it was welcomed by Baghdad and Tehran, which means that the leaderships in both countries are convinced that the present stalemate should not be allowed to continue for ever. Now is the time to reach a lasting and comprehensive settlement and peace which will be supported by the world community at large, said the paper. It should be noted however, that the Soviet bid followed President Saddam Hussein's latest offer to Iran for peace, and it should be emphasised also that it is Iraq which has been calling for peace and extending its peaceful hand to Iran despite the fact that it came out victorious from the eight-year long war, the paper pointed out. Iraq has been patient and at the same time striving to implement UN Security Council Resolution 398, while Iran has been disregarding peace offers from Baghdad and peace mediation by various nations and world organisations, the paper added.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticises the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran for taking measures, which he claims, are detrimental to the Jordanian farmers. Fayed Al Fawzi says that the government has allowed the fruits and vegetables from the occupied territories to flood the local markets in view of the lack of sufficient supplies, but has not taken into consideration the interests of the local farmers. He says that the government's decision was also politically oriented to show support for the Palestinian farmers and their steadfastness against Israeli rule. Of course, the local consumers are happy to buy their needs at reduced prices but the farmers are to bear the brunt and to pay the price, he adds. Local farmers have the right to know the government's policies in advance and to take precautionary measures, the writer suggests. He says that the government should also control the goods coming from the West Bank since Israel brags about its continued success in marketing its products in the Arab World through the open bridges. The writer suggests that if the Kingdom is to accept West Bank crops it should be able to market its cement and fertiliser west of the river.

Al Dustour on Saturday tackled the question of elections in the occupied Arab territories, criticising Israeli leaders' call for organising the elections on a unilateral basis without cooperation from the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The paper said that these ideas reflect a real crisis in Israel and also Israel's failure so far to put an end to the Palestinian uprising. The paper also called attention to Israel's attempts to blackmail the current US-Egyptian-Israeli contacts and said that by its manoeuvres, Israel is hoping to stall for time and destroy all chances for holding peace talks directly with the Palestinian people. The paper at the same time, criticised the United States for not only being a true ally to an aggressor country, but also for failing to take a firm stand with regard to Israel's manoeuvres and to squarely put the blame on the Zionist leaders. The paper said that Israel is clearly trying to escape from the dilemma by trying to divert attention from the real issue of occupation and is not helping the cause of peace by ignoring the status of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. A return to old games and manoeuvres on the part of the Israeli rulers, said the paper, cannot put an end to the intifada; and the despair which now characterises the Israeli political leaders will only be confronted by further determination by the Palestinian people to regain their rights and their homeland.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

What if cost replaced interest?

DURING the three-day parliamentary debate over confidence in the new government, the Islamic bloc put forward conditions for granting confidence. One of these conditions was to abolish interest charged to borrowers from the Housing Corporation and the Agricultural Credit Corporation. In his response, the prime minister told Parliament that the two specialised credit institutions would be instructed to recover the cost only without interest. The answer was assumed to be satisfactory, and the vote of confidence was secured.

Let us assume that the demand and the response over the interest were for real and not mere rhetoric, and that the government decided to instruct the two corporations accordingly — although such instructions could not be made under the current laws — what then would be the results of such an action?

I say that the results would be negative. First on the corporations themselves, second on the current beneficiaries, and third on the future potential beneficiaries and would-be clients of the two institutions. The concerned Islamic deputies are the first to realise the difficulty of introducing a no-interest concept into one part of an integrated free economic system. Examples of failures are in abundance in Egypt, Kuwait, and Jordan, where

millions were lost in the experiment.

The Housing Corporation currently charges five per cent per annum, which is lower than the financial and administrative cost. This is evident by the huge deficit in its balance sheet and its need for continuous injection of funds from the government to keep it afloat. Therefore, the present beneficiaries of the Housing Corporation are not interested in the cost concept, simply because they pay less. They are better off paying a simple interest of five per cent, than paying the actual cost, let alone profits.

On the other hand, public credit corporations do not have shareholders nor do they pay dividends. Their surpluses, if any, are used to expand their services and recycle the funds to more beneficiaries. Thus the low interest collected from farmers is being recycled back to them. If we insist that credit corporations should operate at loss, the first to suffer would be the groups that those corporations were meant to aid, namely limited income families as far as the Housing Corporation is concerned, and farmers as far as the Agricultural Credit Corporation is concerned.

It may be argued that public sector corporations do not care

about profits, because they can always look to the government for financing. But the government decided, under the circumstances, that it cannot continue subsidising these corporations, and that they should become self-sufficient. The Treasury itself suffers from the deficit and wants to see public sector units operate efficiently and economically to cover their running cost and grow.

I believe that both the condition submitted by the Islamic block deputies and the answer offered by the prime minister were not based on economic calculation of the results. The deputies acted out of principle and the prime minister answered out of good will.

Before principles and good intentions are translated into action, someone has to come up with practical, and economically sound formulas which would guarantee the recovery by the credit corporations of their capital, in real not nominal terms, together with their actual costs. Such formulas should be applied on *future* contracts only, not on current contracts.

Finally it may be useful to point out that the real interest collected by the specialised credit institutions is negative, because it is lower than the rate of inflation. It is less than what is needed to compensate for the depreciation of the paper money.

Euphoria over possible German unity gives way to anxiety

By Richard Murphy
Reuter

BONN — When the Berlin Wall was opened amid joyful and emotional scenes last November, it seemed here that anything was possible — even the rapid re-emergence of a united Germany.

Two months later, the euphoria is evaporating as West Germans look at the political and economic problems facing their neighbour.

In West Germany, whose constitution is committed to unity after more than four decades of German division, the emotion-laden issue has transformed the political landscape.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) will make unity

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) will make unity the key issue in their campaign for elections in December.

"1990 will be a year of destiny for us Germans," CDU general secretary Volker Rühe said in a strongly nationalistic new year message to party officials. "For us Germans the question... of the state unity of our fatherland is on the agenda."

Egon Bahr, foreign affairs expert for the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), said: "This is something we have dreamed about for decades and now the situation is here."

Behind the rhetoric, concern is growing about the scale of the problems overshadowing rela-

tions between the two states that emerged from the rubble of Western and Soviet occupation zones after Germany's defeat in World War II.

West Germans are starting to realise just how daunting East Germany's economic problems are and Kohl is still working hard to try to convince Bonn's allies and neighbours that a united Germany would not destabilise the neighbour.

In East Germany, the Communists oppose unification but thousands of people see it as the only hope for their battered economy. Demonstrators chant "Germany — one fatherland" and nearly 1,000 people a day are still moving to the West.

Kohl stands by the vision of a united "fatherland" which he unveiled in a 10-point unity programme in November.

He proposed joint government commissions and wide-ranging contacts, arguing that close institutional ties could lead painlessly to unification some time in the future.

The unprecedented scale of the influx of East Germans last year is prompting West Germans to ask some uncomfortable questions about their open-door policy.

A record 343,854 East Germans settled here in 1989, almost nine times as many as in 1988, along with 377,055 ethnic Germans from the Soviet Union and

other Eastern European countries. In the first eight days of 1990, 14,226 East Germans arrived.

Oskar Lafontaine, deputy SPD leader and the party's likely candidate for chancellor in the December elections, said Bonn should consider curbing welfare benefits for East Germans to encourage them to stay at home.

His views, initially greeted with protests, appear to be gaining ground. The government is looking at ways of curbing abuse of the social security system by East Germans and limiting the health care benefits of temporary visitors.

The PSD, which for many years preferred to play down the "German question," now has a unity programme similar to Kohl's. It envisages step-by-step cooperation leading to a confederation in which both states continue to exist but *concede some sovereignty to a new supranational body.*

The SPD says NATO and the Warsaw Pact will first have to be dismantled as part of a new "European peace order."

"As long as the two alliances exist, there can be no state unity," Egon Bahr said.

The possibility of unity has also encouraged a new national self-assertiveness among mainstream politicians.

"We do not need any assist from abroad for confederative steps," the CDU's Rühe said last month.

1980s showed final victories as rare as final defeats

By Konrad Adam

FOR over a generation there has not been a year that was fuller of moving events. No-one who cannot remember the onset of the cold war can have experienced anything like it.

It is not just that changes, uprisings, revolutions have followed each other in unprecedentedly swift succession; they have also taken place where they would least have been expected after 40 years of status quo: in the heart of Europe.

The final months of a year that began with recollections of the momentous storming of the Bastille were marked by a number of revolutions here and now, revolutions the results and consequences of which cannot yet be foreseen. The year just ended marks the end of a decade spanned by an unusually wide range of events, starting on a note of gloom.

Between Christmas 1979 and New Year 1980 Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan. They allegedly came in response to an appeal for fraternal assistance. Their arrival coincided with the fall of the old puppet government and the appointment of its successor.

Despite the familiar slogans about the heroic struggle of the oppressed masses under the victorious banner of the international proletariat, maintaining rather than changing existing conditions was their overriding objective.

It has been quoted so often that the conservative features that were characteristic of Marxist practice from the outset tended to be forgotten. They were first apparent shortly after the Russian Revolution, the first acid test of reality.

In the 1980s the theoretical consequences of revolution, as forecast by Marx and Engels, world conflagration, failed to happen. Stalin substituted the tenet of communism in one country for the theory of permanent revolution. It survived nothing but made do initially with what already existed and was thus the precursor of today's "real existing socialism," a catchphrase with unmistakably proletarian overtones.

Fidel Castro has arguably been the clearest, doubtless unintentionally, in indicating the extent to which he feels he and his cause are on the defensive.

He sensed something of the twilight of the gods that had begun in Europe but refused to concede that it was on the cards in the Caribbean too.

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Anyone who talks in these terms must have retreat in mind. The military, the last force on which socialism felt able to rely unconditionally and the only one on which it had until recently been able to rely for expansion

and territorial gains, seems no longer to be of use for purposes of old.

So-called revolutionary parties have of late unmistakably taken on the appearance of security forces that are much more intensively concerned with maintaining power than with gaining it.

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Anyone who talks in these terms must have retreat in mind. The military, the last force on which socialism felt able to rely unconditionally and the only one on which it had until recently been able to rely for expansion

and never so seriously that consequences might be feared.

President Mitterrand kept up the TV speeches in which he called for a revision of Yalta for only as long as it seemed safe to assume that everything would, in the final analysis, stay as it was — until, that is, Gorbachev came to power in 1985.

He then began to talk like all the others who wanted things to stay as they were. A quote from a Warsaw newspaper reflects what used to be widespread feeling: "We had grown used to the status quo," wrote *Zycie Warszawy*, "it was convenient for us all. Any questions were deferred until an indefinite future." The indefinite future seems now to have arrived.

The status quo emerged as the dogma of post-war European politics to a degree comparable only with the decades that followed the Congress of Vienna.

But even this dogma aged with the years. Whereas time had stood still at the most unpropitious moment in Europe, it moved on as a matter of course in other parts of the world.

Reference to the status quo seemed threadbare because, as a concept, and assuming it to stand for more than immobility, it is not clear-cut. This is aptly illustrated by a brief exchange between Gorbachev and Truman at the Potsdam conference.

When Churchill asked what "Germany" meant, whether it was to be understood in its pre-war sense and if not, how else, Stalin's answer was clear. "Germany," he said, "is what became of it after the war." There was no other Germany; it was "as it is in 1945."

Truman persisted and the Big Three eventually agreed that their talks were to be based on Germany in its 1937 borders, "but only as a working hypothesis to make our work easier," as Stalin was quick to add. His words made it clear that little had been gained by the compromise. It all depends on the status quo deadline and what you hope to achieve by it.

Extending from a polyvalent past to an indefinite future, the vague concept of a status quo only seemingly applies to the present. Much the same is true of the other catchword, stability. It is of little value as a political objective because change has its good points.

Events in recent months have majestically reminded us that politics must acknowledge the fundamental truth of what Max

Born describes as a law of nature: that stability and life are, in the long term, irreconcilable.

Nothing was more prejudicial to stability than what people in Prague and Budapest, in Leipzig, Dresden and Berlin demanded and did. Yet nothing has been felt to be more liberating and of greater service to life. When stability comes to be synonymous with oppression, as it did in Eastern Europe, and to serve as an

alibi for inactivity, then people long for change.

The future, history, the German Question — all at once everything that previously seemed, time and again, to be defined, determined or hopeless is on the move and an open question again.

We are reminded that eternal laws and irrevocable decisions were always proclaimed with a specific intention in mind and that final victories are as infrequent as final defeats — *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Deutschland*.

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Tibet looks to the sun for energy

By Li Shu

Energy-starved Tibet is turning to its richest potential power source — the sun. With little oil or coal, but with as much sunshine as Saudi Arabia or the Sahara, this region on the roof of the world is looking to the sun in winter.

With an average altitude of over 4,000 metres above sea-level, Tibet gets between 2,500 and 3,400 hours of sunshine per year. And Lhasa, the regional capital, is called "Solar City" as it gets an incredible 3,000 hours of annual sunshine. The region's annual radiation averages 176 kcal per square centimetre, rising to 185.9 kcal for Lhasa itself.

Tibet has considerable hydroelectric potential, but construction of generating plants is expensive, and seasonal variations affect output. There is less water in winter. And the few existing power plants can hardly supply electricity to herdsmen's homes scattered in the vast pastoral areas. So the development of a more feasible alternative such as solar energy is urgent.

"Only in the last 30 years has it become possible to harness solar energy scientifically," said Chen Zhengrong, director of the Tibet Solar Energy Research Institute.

But Tibetans, he said, had been using solar energy since ancient times, albeit in simple ways, and based on the experience of generations.

The famous Sunlight Hall, bedrooms of the 14th Dalai Lama, was built 300 years ago in the Potala Palace. Large windows face south to let in more sunlight. The window sills are only 40 centimetres above the ground. There are no eaves, so as to let in as much sunlight as possible. As a result, more than half of the hall is warmed by the sun in winter.

Ordinary people, unable to afford that level of luxury, simply painted their window-frames black to absorb more heat from the sun. This practice is still popular in Tibet.

Scientific use of solar energy began from necessity. Because of the low temperature on the plateau, it was impossible to grow such vegetables as eggplant and tomato. People in Tibet relied on dried vegetables from China's other regions. In 1956, an all-glass greenhouse of 100 square metres was built along the Qinghai-Tibet highway to provide a road maintenance crew with fresh vegetables. The experiment proved successful and for the first time Tibetans tasted the fruits of scientific research into solar energy.

Greenhouses became popular in the 1970s for their economic benefits. Statistics show that the cost of building one can be recouped in two years with an annual output of 225 tons of vegetables per hectare. By the end of 1980, 200,000 square

metres of greenhouse had been built in Tibet.

Such successes encouraged people to study wider applications for solar energy. Research groups were organized, and soon the first solar bathroom was built in Lhasa. Consisting simply of a bronze tube, a steel plate and two gasoline barrels, this solar water heating system made it possible for city dwellers to have a relaxing bath after the day's work.

Hitherto the only bathing facility for most Tibetans are the rivers, which defy access in most time of the year since the water is icy cold.

Further research was halted when the Cultural Revolution began in 1966. But Tibetans remembered what had been achieved. So when the world energy crisis occurred in the early 1970s and intensified Tibet's need for energy, solar research was quickly revived. A number of solar devices were made, including solar boilers, solar cooking stoves and solar PV cells.

The solar boiler first benefited Tibet's urban residents. In winter when electricity becomes extremely scarce in the major cities, local residents were reluctant to use their limited supply of gas to boil drinking water. The problem was easily solved by the solar boiler which can boil 10 pounds of water in 40 minutes.

The solar cooking stove has come into its own in pastoral and agricultural areas. In Tibet's

western Ali Prefecture, herdsmen had used yak and sheep manure as fuel to cook. Farmers, however, had to buy manure from the herdsmen or chop down ever scarce trees that had taken 200 to 300 years to grow.

"The cooking stove makes our life easier," said a village headman in Tuliangzhen County, 25 kilometres west of Lhasa. The villagers, he said, use the stove unless it rains or becomes cloudy.

No one has so far been burnt or scalded, but burnt rice is common for the new users. People learn to adjust the focal point of the stove, where the heat is concentrated, only after they come to know the product better.

Newly designed solar cells are coming into use in herdsmen's homes. These cells provide power for lighting, thus replacing butter which used to serve as a light source. A solar cell actually stores solar energy. It has also a function in TV relay services.

Most cells come from China's southern Yunnan province, as Tibet cannot yet produce them.

"We focus on the systematic study of solar energy, rather than on production," said Chen Zhengrong of the Tibet Solar Energy Research Institute. "We are more interested in looking for solar products that can beat fit Tibet's special conditions," he explained.

The director takes as an example the window of a solar re-



No danger of burning the hands

energy saves about 20,000 tons of coal each year in Tibet. The 80,000 square metres of solar residential buildings account for half of China's total.

"But at first, local Tibetans, especially herdsmen and farmers, were not ready to accept the new energy appliances," Chen recalled.

Some people feared that solar-boiled water might be poisonous. Others worried that

one day the sun might be totally

used up. But gradually people

were convinced by the efficiency

of solar energy and the new products have a ready market.

Department stores in Tibet

complain of a shortage of solar

products. "We sold our 1,200

solar cooking stoves within a few

days in May," said Wu Ming,

general manager of the solar prod-

ucts shop. "There seem to be

endless requests for the products

and I hope more will come," Wu

said.

Help is on the way. An

\$870,000 project for China's northwestern Gansu province, funded by the United Nations, will also benefit Tibet. Holland is providing \$180,000 to assist Tibet's energy planning.

"We have a long way to go," said Chen Zhengrong. "What we have achieved is just a beginning." In the next several years, Chen said, solar energy will be used more extensively, even in street lamps and in motor vehicles — China features.

Artificial heart developers concentrate on electric versions

By A.J. Hostetter
The Associated Press

doctors assist devices, which aid the heart's function.

At the University of Utah, where the Jarvik-7 was developed, researchers have moved on to study a new generation of heart replacement devices — known as the Utah-100, primarily for temporary use — as a bridge to human heart transplants.

Some researchers said last week that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's withdrawal of approval for the Jarvik-7 device might hurt their work by creating doubt about the long-term feasibility of artificial hearts.

They agree that the future of artificial hearts lies in totally transplantable devices, such as battery-run devices that also could use external energy sources.

Some day, a patient's plastic heart may beat from current flowing from his car's cigarette lighter, says Dr. Donald Olsen, a University of Utah researcher developing the Utah-100 hydraulic heart.

"The air-drive heart has failed as a permanent device," said Dr. William Pierce of the Penn State Medical Center in Hershey.

Pierce implanted Penn State's first total artificial heart, a pneumatic device like the Jarvik-7, in 1985. But the risk of strokes and infection facing recipients of the air-driven heart — who remain mostly bedridden in hospitals, linked by tubes to large compressors — sapped early hopes for the device.

Recipients of an electric heart would wear a battery pack and be able to walk, exercise and even work, he said.

The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute is financing research at Peziz State, the University of Utah, the Texas Heart Institute and the Cleveland Clinic on electric Artificial Hearts.

Gerson Rosenberg, a biomedical engineer who leads Penn State's electric heart development, said the school is in the third year of its 5½-year contract and is testing the device in calves.

Penn State's air-driven device now is the only FDA-approved total heart.

Rosenberg predicted the FDA will consider a totally implantable, electric heart by the late 1990s.

Pierce and Rosenberg said they doubt the decision to pull the Jarvik heart from the marketplace will hinder research because the FDA's comments focused on Symbion Inc. of Tempe, Arizona, which was producing the heart as the Symbion-7.

"It's regrettable that the Symbion company didn't improve that device," Rosenberg said.

"You shouldn't judge all artificial hearts by the Jarvik. There was an awful lot learned."

The Jarvik had been criticized because recipients often experienced blood clots and strokes. Some researchers claimed the problems arose because of design problems in the sacs that pump the blood; other criticism centered on the tube running to the air compressor.

The Penn State total heart has been approved only for temporary use. Other companies pro-

The secret life of Saeed

By Etienne Habiby
Reader International

HISTORY. WROTE MARX, in an oft-quoted phrase, first enters on the stage as tragedy, and subsequently appears as farce. Condemned to repetition, so the argument goes, History's stories lose their initial edge so that one can only engage and finally master their brutal meaning by laughing at how little humans seem to learn — or what to learn — about the past's mistakes and the impulse to repeat them.

But Israel's systematic oppression of the Palestinian people, including 40-plus years of illegal land seizures and forced emigrations, systematic beatings and planned murders, apparently defies Marx's prescription and its assumption of normalcy. "We have nothing to laugh about," proclaims a generation of Palestinian resistance literature, "and there is nothing farcical about how our successive generations continue to suffer the fate of their ancestors."

True though this may be, Etienne Habiby implies in his brilliant novel *The Secret Life of Saeed*, that a literature without irony eventually rings hollow; one can only strike a heroic note or sustain a tragic mood for so long before it loses its ability to convey those very horrors it screams so often.

Written as a farce which fully recognises how humorous the incongruities of daily life in Palestine can be, Habiby's novel is paradoxically more successful in sketching the horror of that life than the ostensibly more "tragic" poetry of Mahmoud Darwish and Ghassan Kanafani, two of the most acclaimed Palestinian writers.

Habiby's protagonist Saeed is hence not your typical resistance hero. Rather, as a Palestinian collaborator more concerned with survival than struggle, he bungles his way from episode to episode marked by craven cowardice and a stunning inability to accomplish the tasks outlined for him by his Israeli superiors. Certain that "the moon is closer to us now than are the fig trees of our departed village," he accepts apparent strokes of fate — watching the Israelis murder his father and deport his first and only love in the War of 1948 and, subsequently, watching them kill his wife and radical son in the ominous year preceding the Six Day War.

Neither surprised nor, consequently, particularly incapacitated by such happenings, Saeed is able to train his perceptive glance on the Israeli occupation without letting his emotions get in the way — usually. The exceptions make for a beautifully tight dialogue between Saeed's biting cool wit — almost invariably exercised at the

expense of the Israeli state — and those poignant moments when the horror he experiences and the rage he represses overwhelm his pretense of distant invulnerability. The tension produced by this dialogue, always present beneath the surface, eventually precipitates the long delayed explosion through which Saeed — and by implication the long-quiescent Palestinian people — are forced to wake from the nightmare of history within which they sleep and which "will reach them nevertheless, generation after generation," unless they confront it.

Saeed's epiphany moment takes place in prison, where, in his long-time service to the state notwithstanding, he eventually finds himself thrown for a crime he did not commit. Having been beaten brutally, he awakens to find another tortured prisoner beside him who not only bears his name but who, he discovers, is the son of his first love, long exiled in Lebanon. When the younger Saeed, assuming that his elder counterpart is in jail, like himself, for fighting the Israeli state, praises him, it restores to the older Saeed a dignity he had forgotten — literally and figuratively — a younger self — and allows him to see more clearly than ever before that the Palestinians' condition "contradicts the laws of nature and the rules of logic."

Still, old habits die hard, and while Saeed

Scientists concerned about frogs, toads dying around world

By Irvin Arlett
Reader

WASHINGTON. Toads and frogs are dropping like flies.

Zoologists say that a mysterious, precipitous decline in the amphibian population in some parts of the world raises troubling question about the future of humans and the environment.

"What we've got here is a global early warning system and that system is the frog," says Michael Tyler of Australia's University of Adelaide.

To date, the evidence of a huge decline in the world's amphibian population is largely anecdotal, but zoologists say it should not be ignored.

Amphibians have a perpetually moist skin, and they live both on land and in water, so they are constantly sampling their environment in ways that we don't," says David Wake, an evolutionary biologist at the University of California at Berkeley.

"They are going to sense things before we do, and if they're going to go, there's a message there for us," says Wake, former president of the American Society of Naturalists.

If, after further study, it is determined that the threat to amphibians is only a local problem, or part of some natural cycle, then there is nothing to worry about, says Wake.

However, if instead it is determined that the problem is world-

wide, then something must be done, he said.

"Without question something is going on in some places. What we don't know is if it's general. If it is a global phenomenon, this really is an important discovery," he said.

At Wake's suggestion, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in Washington has decided to sponsor a conference on the phenomenon next month in Irvine, California.

The goal of the meeting, which is to be chaired by Wake, is to determine if there is a problem and, if so, what to do about it, said National Academy staff members Donna Gerard.

A decade ago, when he walked through the meadows of the high

Sierras — a craggy mountain range that runs along the California-Nevada border — "It used to be frog heaven," Wake recalled in a telephone interview. "They were so thick on the ground you would step on them."

"Now they are almost absent on the area," he said.

He found a similar decline in salamander and toad populations on a recent visit to Costa Rica's Monteverde rain forest, raising suspicion that the problem was widespread.

It was then that he started a "frog log" in his computer.

When his concerns began to circulate in Zoological circles, phone calls and letters started pouring in.

Areas so far reporting dwind-

ing or disappearing amphibian populations include Denmark, Hungary, southern Ontario in Canada as well as southern California and Australia, Wake said.

Along Australia's east coast alone about 20 different amphibian species have been affected and some have disappeared entirely," Tyler said in a telephone interview.

In Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea "a large number of species have either disappeared totally or have disappeared from a large part of their range," Tyler added.

Other possible explanations include the contamination of wetlands with heavy metal toxins. They speculate the cause could include pesticide residues, acid rain, a gradual disappearance of the ponds amphibians require to breed, and growing salinity in wetlands.

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Rafsanjani defends use of foreign credits to rebuild Iran economy

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani Friday defended his government's plan to seek \$20 billion in foreign investment and insisted this would not drag Iran into "dependence," Tehran radio reported.

The government's five-year plan to rebuild the country's war-battered economy was approved last week after months of debate.

The controversy focused on Rafsanjani's ambitious plans to attract foreign investment, argue this will lead Iran into an endless cycle of debt.

Radical leaders, who dominate the 270-member parliament and oppose any foreign investment, argue this will lead Iran into an endless cycle of debt.

They gave the plan the green light after a stern warning Monday by the country's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to stop frustrating Rafsanjani's efforts to resuscitate the economy.

Rafsanjani, in his Friday sermon in Tehran, rejected any no-

tion that the kind of foreign investment he was seeking would lead Iran into "dependence" on the outside world.

Speaking on the radio, monitored in Nicosia, he argued "this is not dependence. Dependence is created when gas, which is one of our resources, and we can use it to produce hundreds of products, burns on land and sea, and we do not have the means to harness it now or in the next 20 years."

Iran has signed a number of oil and gas-related agreements, primarily with the Soviet Union, which is helping in gas exploration under the Iranian side of the Caspian Sea bed. But these projects are being financed by huge exports of natural gas which will be piped to the Soviet Union starting in March.

Rafsanjani denied that the \$20 billion his government is seeking to rebuild oil-related industries battered in the Gulf war, and to construct a number of dams, amounted to a loan.

He said any foreign investment in Iran would be repaid from profits after the projects reached production stage.

Rafsanjani's projected growth rates, although ambitious, will be needed after years in which Iran saw a negative annual rate of growth of minus 2.7 per cent which has been dragging down the country's economy since the 1979 revolution that deposed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and installed an Islamic government.

Rafsanjani acknowledged that in his five-year plan "expenditure is based on earnings, but we have some needs in the petrochemical industry and to build some dams, for which we don't have enough foreign exchange."

Spending in the five-year plan is projected at \$350 billion, of which \$112 billion reportedly will be in foreign exchange.

He said that the plan envisaged an annual overall economic growth rate of eight per cent.

"At this rate, over the five-year

period we will have achieved considerable growth," Rafsanjani said.

He said that according to projections "agriculture will grow at 6.1 per cent, oil at 8.7 per cent, industry at 14.5 per cent, services at 6.7 per cent, mines at 19.5 per cent, utilities at 9.1 per cent and construction at 14.5 per cent."

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Iran relies on oil and gas exports for 95 per cent of its foreign exchange.

Rafsanjani has said about \$50 billion are locked up in unfinished projects in Iran, and that many bottlenecks and shortages could be relieved if the projects were completed.

The five-year plan was drawn up by the previous government and announced in March. But after his election in July, Rafsanjani announced major changes, adding another \$16 billion in spending.

The plan aims to triple non-oil exports in 1990-95 from \$3 billion a year to \$9 billion. At present

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday Jan. 6, '90 and ending Wednesday Jan. 10, '90. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Number of shares Volume of trade Opening price Closing price Per value

Banking and financial institutions

Industrial Development Bank	17547	56553	2,700	3,310	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	153636	273857	1,520	1,810	1,000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	659	1365	2,060	2,100	1,000
Housing Bank	3220	9960	3,100	3,350	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	500	13875	27,000	27,750	5,000
Cairo Amman Bank	4945	75842	14,200	15,250	5,000
Bank of Jordan	12620	2963282	225,000	229,000	10,000
Arab Bank	26224	74723	2,560	2,670	1,000
Jordan National Bank	2220	7608	3,500	3,450	1,000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	—
Jordan Investment and Finance Bank	—	—	—	—	—
National Financial Investments	—	—	—	—	—
National Portfolio Securities	204179	441638	2,030	2,140	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	14160	36139	2,550	2,560	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	—
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	661	606	1,000	980	1,000

Insurance and reinsurance

Middle East Insurance	51750	103571	1,950	2,110	1,000
Jordan French Insurance	13600	33718	2,500	2,520	1,000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	—
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	—	—	—	—	—
Yarmook Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	—
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	—
Philadelphia Insurance	700	1110	1,530	1,600	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	—
Jerusalem Insurance	100	173	1,730	1,730	1,000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	—
General Arabis Insurance	300	510	1,710	1,700	1,000
National Ahliya Insurance	—	—	—	—	—
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	—
United Insurance	133325	198768	1,350	1,360	1,000
Arab Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	—

Services and industries

General Investments	250	460	1,750	1,840	1,000
Imraa for Investment and Financial Facilities	—	—	—	—	—
Darco for Housing and Investment	9909	10284	1,060	1,010	1,000
Real Estate Investment (Aqroco)	504433	457002	0,910	0,900	1,000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	324715	186672	0,610	0,550	1,000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	60400	27268	0,960	0,950	1,000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tecero	—	—	—	—	—
International Contracting & Investment	14998	22211	1,480	1,470	1,000
Jordanian Electric Power	—	—	—	—	—
Iridi District Electricity	77250	121986	1,620	1,560	1,000
Hotels and Tourism	12900	8424	0,660	0,620	1,000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	—	—	—	—	—
Garage Owners Federation Office	36450	96652	2,650	2,680	1,000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	17100	66900	4,050	4,000	1,000
Jordan Press and Publishing	2000	4100	2,000	2,050	1,000
Dar Al Shab Press, Printing and Publishing	—	—	—	—	—
Jordan Dairy	115501	234108	2,020	1,950	1,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	7447	39080	5,250	5,130	1,000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	187959	53893	2,930	3,020	1,000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	13388	61585	4,600	4,600	1,000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intco)	25418	68488	2,800	2,650	1,000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	2200	16471	6,050	7,500	1,000
Jordan Kart for Agricultural Products	132700	51246	1,860	1,820	1,000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	—
Aladdin Industries	3000	10500	3,600	3,450	1,000
Arab Aluminum Manufacturing	62278	179320	2,860	2,860	1,000
Jordan Worsted Mills	6679	22018	3,300	3,300	1,000
Jordan Ceramics	1150	39032	3,640	3,450	1,000
Chemical Industries	—	—	—	—	—
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	149296	290427	1,970	1,900	1,000
Dar Al Daw'a for Development and Investment	13294	56771	4,150	4,380	1,000
National Steel Industries	1500	4319	2,930	2,860	1,000
Universal Chemical Industries	17900	95499	3,330	3,330	1,000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	—
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	1331	10915	8,240	8,200	1,000
Jordan Lime & Brick	—	—	—	—	—
National Industries	9100	9702	1,100	1,050	1,000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	17900	10579	0,690	0,570	1,000
Arab Investment and International Trade	738459	622930	0,830	0,870	1,000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	1700	6284	3,700	3,670	1,000
Livestock and Poultry	11270	9843	0,790	0,900	1,000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	5000	17349	3,520	3,390	1,000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	350	981	2,560	2,820	1,000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	2964	24136	7,940	8,450	1,000
Jordan Rockwood Industries	—	—	—	—	—
Jordan Himesh Mineral	—	—	—	—	—
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	—
Woolen Industries	11450	15729	1,700	1,530	1,000
Jordan Tanning	1668	3920	2,350	2,350	1,000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—</			

Sports

Liverpool draws, surrenders two-point lead

LONDON (R) — Liverpool had their lead at the top of the English first division narrowed to just one difference on Saturday as struggling Luton held them to a 2-2 draw at Ashton after threatening one of the aspects of the season.

Two goals within two minutes from Kingsley Black and Debbie Kerr Nogan put Luton 2-1 up and just 10 minutes away from their first ever win at Liverpool and their first away triumph for over a year.

But Scottish internationals Steve Nicol equalised in the 76th minute to deny Luton's new manager Jim Ryan a remarkable result in his first match in charge.

Aston Villa moved level on 43 points with Liverpool following a 2-0 win at bottom club Charlton — their 12th victory in 15 league games. Villa also have a game in hand over the leaders.

But Arsenal and Southampton, third and fourth respectively, lost

ground. Arsenal crushed 1-0 at London neighbours Wimbledon in a dose contest in which defender Nigel Whiteman was carried off on a stretcher late in the second half.

Newcomer Michael Bennett

scored the goal minutes from time to leave the champions four points behind the leading pair.

Southampton, held to a 2-2 draw at home by improving Everton, remain eight points adrift of the leaders.

Veteran defender Russell Osman scored twice as Southampton just beat Everton — they have not beaten the Liverpool side in 12 meetings over the last six years.

Unchanged for the sixth consecutive match and beaten only once in their last 10 outings, Southampton were expected to prove too sharp for their mid-table visitors.

They had scored more goals in their last three games than Everton had in their previous 13 and when Osman opened the scoring with a left foot drive in the 14th minute the match looked set to go to form.

But former Manchester United midfielder Norman Whiteside struck a minute either side of haltime to put the visitors ahead and Osman was left to earn a point for his side with his second goal 16 minutes from time.

When England winger John Barnes shot Liverpool ahead against Luton after 32 minutes,

Ryan's pre-match promise that his side would not be overawed at Ashton and would entertain began to look a little empty.

But Luton's defiance, which had conceded 30 goals in their previous 12 games, worked hard throughout to contain Barnes and Welsh marksman Ian Rush and Black's 72nd minute equaliser clearly boosted his team mates.

Nolan's shock goal two minutes later put Luton in sight of their first win since November. But Nicol replied with his fifth of the season to stretch his side's unbeaten run to 10 games.

U.A.E. sacks Brazilian coach, hires Pole

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Mario Zagalo, the Brazilian coach who steered the United Arab Emirates' soccer squad to their first World Cup finals, was abruptly sacked by the Gulf state's football association Saturday, officials reported.

Zagalo, 53, who recently returned from a Christmas vacation in Brazil, was officially informed of the decision at a meeting with the association.

Zagalo, whose two-year contract was scheduled to expire in June, will be replaced by Bernd

Blauth. Poland's former assistant national coach who currently is head coach with the Sharjah club in the UAE first division.

"This is a surprise to me.

Naturally I'm upset about it,"

Zagalo told the Associated Press after the meeting.

"I was officially informed of

this sudden decision this morning at a meeting with the football association, although I'd read about it in today's papers. It was a shock," he said.

Zagalo was hailed as a hero in

the Emirates only a few months ago after the national team, under his tutelage, won through to the World Cup finals in Italy to be held this summer.

The

United Arab Emirates

Football Association, or

UAEFA, was expected to formally announce Zagalo's sacking sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The reason for Zagalo's dismiss-

al was not immediately known. But former U.A.E. captain Ahmed Eissa, now a leading sports official, told the AP: "The association has decided that it is in the best interests of the game and I'm sure that it would not affect the morale of the players."

Association sources noted that UAEFA was not happy with Zagalo taking a vacation in December while the national team was being groomed for the Gulf Cup in Kuwait next month and the World Cup finals.

The U.A.E. is grouped with West Germany, Yugoslavia and Colombia in Group D in the finals that start in the day.

The news media in Dubai, the bustling port city where Zagalo lives, had speculated about his dismissal earlier in the day.

Blaum told reporters Friday night, when speculation that Zagalo was on the way out began, that he had not been officially informed of any decision.

Zagalo declined to give details of his meeting with UAEFA. But he said he will leave in about two weeks after settling matters related to his contract and clearing up his personal affairs.

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Steb was far steadier from the

backcourt and repeatedly passed

Wilander when the Swede ad-

vanced to the net.

"I had to be steady from the

baseline today, and I didn't make

too many mistakes," Steb said.

"I've learned that I can play

like a top 10 player, now it's up to

me to get there."

Steb currently is ranked 16th.

Noah, his career rejuvenated

by the coaching from former U.S.

Davis Cup captain Dennis Ral-

ston, was given a standing ovation

by the packed centre court

crowd after his thrilling battle

with hard-slugging Krickstein.

Krickstein added variety to his

usual game, which is based on a

powerful forehand, but still was

unable to match Noah, who was a

top five player from 1982 to 1988.

He has since slipped to 21st on

the Association of Tennis Profes-

sionals computer.

He will meet West German

left-hander Carl-Uwe Steb in

Sunday's final following seventh-

seeded Steb's impressive 6-3, 6-2

semifinal victory over former

world number one Mats Wilander

of Sweden.

Steb, who stunned reigning

U.S. Open and Wimbledon

champion Boris Becker in the

quarterfinals, was too consistent

from the baseline for fifth-seeded

Wilander.

He raced to a 3-0 lead in the

first set and Wilander never really

got into the match.

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